

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 141545Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5112

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T ROME 00571

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL

REF: STATE 006146

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVE OUTLINED REFTEL WITH MFA'S MIDDLE EAST OFFICE DIRECTOR BARTOLOMEO ATTOLICO, HAVING EARLIER INFORMALLY ALERTED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AMB. PLAJA THAT WE WOULD BE MAKING SUCH SOUNDINGS. ATTOLICO'S REACTION WAS THAT IDEA WAS SOUND IN PRINCIPLE BUT MOST DIFFICULT TO BRING INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION.

2. IN MEBOFF'S PRESENCE ATTOLICO DICTATED MEMO TO PLAJA, OUTLINING OUR DEMARCHE ALONG LINES OF ARGUMENTATION LAID OUT REFTEL AND SUGGESTED THAT, SINCE SIMILAR APPROACHES WERE BEING MADE TO SOME OF ITALY'S MAJOR EC PARTNERS, MATTER
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BE DISCUSSED AT ITALY'S INITIATIVE DURING POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S

MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG, JANUARY 19 AND 20.

3. ATTOLICO SAID THAT, SINCE ITALY REFUSES TO LICENSE EXPORTS OF ARMS TO LEBANESE FACTIONS, ANY ARMS OF ITALIAN ORIGIN ARRIVING THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN PROCURED "UNDER THE TABLE". EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ARMS BAN WOULD BE AS DIFFICULT AS "CREATING AN EFFICIENT ITALIAN POLICE FORCE".

4. COMMENT: PLAJA USUALLY ACCEPTS ATTOLICO'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON ME AFFAIRS. WE WOULD THEREFORE ANTICIPATE SUBJECT WILL IN FACT BE BROACHED IN LUXEMBOURG NEXT WEEK.VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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